



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenneth S. Wales et al. : Paper No:
Serial No. 10/615,971 : Group Art Unit: 3721
Filed: July 9, 2003 : Examiner: Paul Durand
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING ARTICULATION JOINT
SUPPORT PLATES FOR SUPPORTING A FIRING BAR

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated September 28, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

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